# Request for City Council Committee Action
# from the Department of Public Works

**Date:**        February 25, 2014

**To:**          Honorable Kevin Reich, Chair Transportation & Public Works Committee

**Subject:**     **Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar Project**

**Recommendation:**

> Authorize the proper city officers to amend the existing contract with URS
> Corporation to complete additional pre-project development tasks for the
> Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar project for an additional amount not to
> exceed $357,000 for a new contract amount of $1,557,000.

**Previous Directives:**

- December 6, 2013 – City council authorized a master funding agreement
  with the Metropolitan Council to conduct environmental review and pre-
  project development activities for the Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar, for
  an amount not to exceed $150,000.
- October 4, 2013 – City Council approved a Locally Preferred Alternative
  (LPA) for the Nicollet-Central Transit Alternatives Study and recommended
  the LPA to the Metropolitan Council for inclusion in the Regional
  Transportation Policy Plan.
- August 16, 2013 – City Council authorized a contract amendment with URS
  Corporation to complete the NEPA process for the Nicollet-Central Transit
  Alternatives Study.
- June 25, 2013 – City Council established a project area and value capture
  district for streetcar financing.
- May 25, 2012 – City Council authorized a contract with URS Corporation to
  provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis in the
  Nicollet Avenue and Central Ave corridor.
- April 2, 2010 – City Council approved the long-term streetcar network.
- March 23, 2010 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Funding Study.
- January 22, 2008 – T&PW received and filed Streetcar Feasibility Study.

**Department Information:**

| Prepared by: | Anna Flintoft, Transportation Planner, 673-3885 |
| | Charleen Zimmer, Project Manager, Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar |
| | Environmental Assessment, 612-354-2101 |
| | |
| Approved by: | _____ |
| | Steven A. Kotke, P.E., Director of Public Works |
| | |
| Presenters in Committee: Anna Flintoft, Charleen Zimmer | |

**Financial Impact**
- None.  Action is within the current project budget.

**Community Impact**
- City Goals:  Jobs & Economic Vitality - Planes, trains and streetcars move goods and workers smartly; Strong commercial corridors, thriving business corners.  Livable Communities, Healthy Lives - Equitable, integrated transit system.

**Supporting Information**

In May 2012, the City Council authorized an $850,000 contract with URS Corporation to provide professional services to conduct an alternatives analysis study for transit improvements in the Nicollet-Central corridor.  That study was completed in fall 2013, and the City Council approved a recommended locally preferred alternative (LPA) for the corridor on October 4, 2013 as modern streetcar running between Lake Street and at least 5th Street NE on Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin/1st Avenues, using the Hennepin Avenue bridge to cross the Mississippi River.

The next phase of study is to conduct an Environmental Assessment and Section 106 Review for the recommended modern streetcar project.  In August 2013, the City Council authorized a first contract amendment with URS Corporation in the amount of $350,000 to complete the NEPA process for the LPA anticipated from the alternatives analysis.  That work is under way and being guided by a project management team that includes the City of Minneapolis and Metropolitan Council.   The Project Management Team has identified additional engineering, cultural resources, traffic modeling, and public outreach work necessary to complete the Environmental Assessment, which comprise the scope of the recommended contract amendment for $357,000.

This action is within the current project budget.  The existing contract and first amendment for $1,200,000 is funded by a $900,000 federal grant and $300,000 City match.  The recommended $357,000 for the second contract amendment is funded through additional Nicollet-Central Modern Streetcar funds in the 2014 Public Works budget.